

**DECISION RECORD**  
**and**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**I. Decision:**

It is my decision to issue ten-year grazing permits on Bureau of Land Management lands to reindeer herders on the Seward and Baldwin peninsulas, Alaska. The permits shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in Alternative B of the attached Reindeer Grazing Programmatic Environmental Assessment.

**II. Rationale for the Decision:**

The Reindeer Industry Act of 1937, 500 Stat. 900, authorizes the Secretary's regulation of reindeer grazing on Federal public lands on the peninsulas. Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 4300.40 allows for the issuance of ten-year, grazing permits. In recognition of the importance of reindeer grazing to Native Alaskan culture and tradition, authorizing up to ten-year permits allows herders more time for building herds and infrastructure, thereby giving a longer-term investment opportunity.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 202(f), provides that the Secretary shall allow an opportunity for public comment and participation in the formulation of plans and programs relating to the management of the public lands. The Act also provides that the Secretary shall take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands. By identifying land health standards specific to reindeer grazing on the Seward and Baldwin Peninsulas, BLM seeks to maintain a balance between range health and a sustainable and economically viable reindeer industry.

I have selected Alternative B because it provides a framework for managing the range on the peninsulas; acknowledges the difficulty of maintaining a viable reindeer herd in the face of herd emigration with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd; and recognizes the habitat requirements of subsistence resources on the peninsulas. Grazed Class 5 utilization threshold, a salient feature of Alternative B, is a conservation measure intended to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the range while maintaining environmental and ecosystem integrity.

**III. Finding of No Significant Impact:**

The proposed action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101 (a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Further and based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, it is my determination that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access.

Moreover reindeer herding in Alaska was intended to be a supplemental subsistence resource, Reindeer Industry Act of 1937, 500 Stat. 900.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

The action will not have an adverse impact on energy development, production, supply or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

VI. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

The mitigation measures found in the attached programmatic environmental assessment are incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

/s/ James M. Fincher  
James M. Fincher  
Anchorage Field Manager

December 30, 2008  
Date